

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 H-01 PA-01 HEW-04 CG-00 DOTE-00
AGRE-00 HUD-01 /129 W
-----010732 101950Z /45

R 091329Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2871
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT PASS EPA FOR SHOSTAL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: VISIT OF US
BIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS DELEGATION
(02.07-11)

1. A GROUP OF US SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATED MAY 28 -
JUNE 7 IN THE FIFTH WORKSHOP ON BASIC AND PRACTICAL
APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGENESIS AND CARCINOGENESIS
HELD IN BAKU UNDER US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. USDEL
ADVISED THAT THE SOVIETS ORGANIZED SUBJECT WORKSHOP
THOROUGHLY AND TREATED US PARTICIPANTS CORDIALLY. USDEL
LEADER, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT WORKSHOP
RESULTS, NOTING THAT THE SOVIETS PRESENTATIONS FAILED TO
PROVIDE ANYTHING NEW OR USEFUL. USDEL COMMENTED THAT
WORKSHOP HAD APPARENTLY BEEN STRUCTURED IN SUCH A WAY AS
TO PERMIT LITTLE IF ANY TIME FOR REAL DISCUSSION OF SOVIET
PAPERS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, US PARTICIPANTS WERE UNABLE TO
PURSUE SUBJECTS PRESENTED IN SOVIET PAPERS AND
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IN PARTICULAR TO PRESS SOVIET SCIENTISTS FOR HARD DATA
BEHIND THEIR GENERALIZATIONS. SOVIETS ALSO FAILED TO
PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TRANSLATION SERVICES WHICH, IN
THE OPINION OF USDEL, SEVERELY LIMITED SUBSTANTIVE
CONTACT.

2. USDEL, ON THE OTHER HAND, GAVE PRESENTATIONS WHICH

WERE BASED ON THE LATEST US WORK IN THE FIELD AND WHICH CONSEQUENTLY CONTAINED MUCH NEW DATA. USDEL LEADER POINTED OUT THAT MOST US WORK PRESENTED AT THE BAKU WORKSHOP HAD NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED AND, AS SUCH, SHOULD HAVE BEEN OF GREAT VALUE TO THE SOVIETS IN THE LIGHT OF THE GENERAL LAB BETWEEN PUBLICATION OF US RESEARCH RESULTS AND THEIR DISSEMINATION (AND IMPACT) HERE. USDEL COMMENTED, FINALLY, THAT CONTINUED COOPERATION ON SUBJECT WOULD BE USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO THE US PROVIDED THE SOVIETS MADE THEIR HARD RESEARCH DATA AVAILABLE MORE FREELY AND DID NOT LIMIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREE AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WORKING SCIENTISTS. BARRING THAT, USDEL STRESSED THAT CHIEF USE OF SUCH SEMINARS IS IN PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENTISTS ON BOTH SIDES TO GET ACQUAINTED.

3. COMMENT. SOVIET TENDENCY TO PRESENT GENERAL REPORTS, WITH LITTLE HARD, SUPPORTING DATA, IS A FREQUENT COMPLAINT FROM US PARTICIPANTS IN JOINT SEMINARS IN ALL OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. US CUSTOM OF PRESENTING SPECIFIC, "STATE OF THE ART" REPORTS CAUSES REAL IMBALANCE IN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. EXPERIENCE IN SUBJECT SEMINAR AGAIN HIGHLIGHTS NECESSITY FOR EXCHANGE OF ABSTRACTS, IF NOT FINAL PAPERS, WELL IN ADVANCE, AND FOR US TO STRESS TO SOVIETS THAT PAPERS MUST BE BALANCED IN CONTENT. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS, VISITS, CONSULTANTS, GENETICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW13200
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-0749
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780676/aaaacnsc.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c0d8428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2417073
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: VISIT OF US BIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS DELEGATION (02.07-11)
TAGS: SENV, TGEN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c0d8428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014